

**Gold King Mine
Summary of EPA Discussion
Regarding the Potential Decision by State of New Mexico and San Juan County**

The State of New Mexico and San Juan County are considering allowing drinking water systems to begin taking water out of the Animas River. One drinking water system has reported that they are approaching a critical condition with regard to its reservoir supply. The State and local personnel are taking a very deliberative approach to return to-normal level of operation

- The samples collected in the Animas River on August 8th, 9th, and 10th all indicate that the level of constituents sampled are below New Mexico water quality standards and MCLs.
- The State and Local personnel initiated flushing of the irrigation ditches at 7:00 pm on August 14, 2015.
- The ditch operators have been informed that they may begin regular operations after 12 hours of flushing.
- The flushing of ditches removed residue and was initiated on August 14, 2015,
- The intent of a delay between flushing and allowing the drinking water systems to begin taking water from the Animas River is to allow adequate time for any turbidity to dilute and disperse.
- EPA will continue to monitor surface water at the drinking water intakes.

EPA will continue to sample and analyze surface water and sediment. EPA will make the data available to support State and local decision makers moving forward and allow them to make informed decisions.